Coal production

3493. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the power, steel and cement sector have called upon Government to chalk out emergency measures to step up coal production which has remained sluggish off late;

(b) whether Government propose additional investment of more than Rs. 3000 crores in existing coal blocks under CIL and Singareni Coal Fields Ltd.; and

(c) whether energy, cement and steel sectors would be allowed to bid for the new blocks as captive mining units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) To meet the burgeoning coal demand during Eleventh Plan, Coal India Limited (CIL) has enhanced its coal production target of 2011-12 to a level of 504.10 Mt. which is about 141 Mt. more than the projection of 2006-07 and about 59 Mt. more than earlier projections for Eleventh Plan. Besides this, CIL under "Emergency Coal Production Plan" has identified 16 opencast projects/mines where production from the existing mines/projects will be enhanced to a higher level yielding additional 71.3 Mt. The estimated investment for the increased production is Rs. 5319.94 crore, out of which Rs. 2629.14 crore have already been sanctioned in the respective project reports with lower production capacity.

(c) Yes, Sir. These sectors are allowed to bid for the new block as captive mining units.

New coal reserves

†3494. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new coal reserves have been discovered during the past one decade in the country;

(b) if so, the quantity of coal reserves explored during the above period; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the total amount spent for this exploration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. Geological Survey of India (GSI) conducts Regional Exploration of coal (besides other minerals) on regular basis to identify new coal resources in the country. Apart from it, Ministry of Coal also undertakes Promotional (regional) Exploration of coal through a plan-to-plan scheme for supplementing and augmenting the efforts of GSI.

(b) The Inventory of Geological Resources of Indian Coal has increased from 201.95 Billion Tonnes on 1.1.1996 to 253.30 Billion Tonnes on 1.1.2006 (last ten years), with addition of 51.35 Billion Tonnes of new coal resources.

(c) As per GSI, total expenditure incurred on regional exploration of additional reserves during last decade works out to Rs. 213.38 crores. Besides, as reported by Coal India Ltd., under the scheme of Promotional Exploration for Coal and Lignite, an approximate sum of Rs. 204.00 crores has been spent on completed and on going projects of Promotional Exploration for coal, in last ten years.

Production of coal

†3495. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a need for fresh capital investment to increase the production of coal in the country;

(b) if so, the additional capital required with regard to surface and underground mines; and

(c) the rate of increase in production after the said capital investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Fresh capital investment is required to increase the production of coal. During Tenth Plan Period

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.